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Bangalore Mirror

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THREE'S UNLUCKY

City police won't go easy on triple riding, especially with kids

PAGE 3

GIVE US A SIGN

Can we get our hopes up on Carmelaram rail overbridge?

PAGE 4

Don't sit here, don't go there — housing societies' in city draw up strict rules for domestic workers, leaving them no space for leisure

MAID TO ORDER

Activist urges BBMP, Labour Dept to issue guidelines on basic amenities

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Recently, a viral tweet brought attention to the state of working conditions of domestic workers in the city. The tweet, sharing a circular issued by a housing society in the city asking people who work within the premises to restrict themselves to the waiting area during their breaks, received massive attention on social media. Activists in the city say that domestic workers have no room for leisure in their routines.

Geeta Menon, General Secretary of the Domestic Workers' Union said that the practice is not uncommon and the particular housing society initiating a circular is not an isolated incident. "Over 10 workers once protested such a move made by a prestigious apartment complex in Whitefield," she said, explaining that the workers are often employed by many houses within the same society, leaving them with no choice but to wait in areas such as parks within the premises since travelling to and from their homes is not a feasible option. "Segregation within lifts and the luggage section is also very common. There was an instance where the workers were told to wait in the basement of the society where the drivers were designated to wait. Several cases of harassment were reported due to such an arrangement," she said, adding that the employers remain unaccountable and treat domestic workers as untouchables.

Geeta urged the municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) or the Labour Department to take up the matter and issue an advisory mandating resident associations to provide necessary amenities to domestic workers. "During the pandemic, the BBMP issued several notifications to resident welfare associations, making certain behaviours compulsory. It can do the same with regard to domestic workers since areas such as parks and gazebos are not private spaces," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"The Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008 broadly covers domestic workers. They fall within the ambit of a number of laws but there is nothing specific to them. The Unorganised Workers Act entitles them to a registration card but beyond that, there are no other entitlements**
>
> – Avani Choksi, lawyer and member of AICCTU

Expressway is really taking a toll

Not only are there safety concerns on B'luru-Mysuru expressway, now NHAI wants to start collecting toll at a second booth

A bus conductor died, while the driver was injured as a KSRTC electric bus hit a mini truck on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on Wednesday

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Despite the rising safety concerns on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, here comes a shocker. Travel between the two cities is about to become more expensive starting from Saturday, as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to introduce toll collection at the second toll booth near Srirangapatna.

According to sources, car users will have to pay Rs 155 for one-way travel, while mini buses will be charged Rs 250, and buses and heavy vehicles will incur a fee of Rs 575. Multi-axle vehicles will be required to pay Rs 825. For return travel within 24 hours, car users must pay Rs 235 for a round trip. This means that someone traveling from Bengaluru to Mysuru within 24 hours will have to pay a total of Rs 320 in tolls, considering the toll at Kanamainike toll (near Kumbalgodu) is Rs 165. For a same-day return trip within 24 hours, car users will be charged Rs 485 for a round trip. These toll rates translate to approximately

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Unlock the power of modern expression

Historian Annapurna Garimella talks about contemporary artists and modern art

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Two of the pertinent points raised by Annapurna Garimella, an art historian and designer, were that everyone feels sad apart from contemporary artists, and the sadness that is talked about does not come from superiority.

She started working with the Devi Art Foundation in 2007 on contemporary and modern art. Talking about the Jyothi Bhat exhibition, she said, "Someone described Jyothi Bhat's work as a calculation and an accident. You have calculated to be ready, but then the accident happens. I'm hoping something like that happens to me during the presentation of my work."

She was talking at the Museum of Art and Photography in the city.

She added that her research does not come from an art school, like most of the art in the country. She said, "When it does not come from art school, it has a different kind of energy and aura. It could have a different attitude and can be irritating for people in art schools. When I'm presenting the work of modern artists, I'm doing and undoing.

"When we started the foundation, I was told that it would make contemporary artists anxious. Because the Devi Art Foundation, the biggest collector of art work at that time, was investing money, it in no way commanded the scope of prices that contemporary artists were seeking for their work. They then started moving to textiles and urban history, which could not be characterised as worlds for sale," she explained.

Garimella was involved in the collection of Indian women artists working with historical crafts. "It was an interesting moment for me. The work included Ranjini Shettar, Pushpamala, and other women who have different practices. Vernacular and contemporary were total experiments in writing contracts. The subject matter was narratively and visually rich. There was sadness in it, but also a lot of joy," she informed.

Sometimes cues were given to them after watching how their work or artform was evolving. There were around 70 artists who needed help from the Devi Art Foundation and researchers.

Annapurna Garimella talking at the Musuem of Art and Photography in Bengaluru

Two important lessons were learned during her research work. "Everyone feels sad. It is not just contemporary artists who have a sense of melancholia. This is a problem for me because so much contemporary art describes melancholia as a deeply critical condition. Everyone feels sad and is anxious about what is happening around, especially in this country," she added.

The second lesson was that the way sadness is talked about does not come from superiority. "I learned that folk songs are full of criticality. Criticising the British, Brahmins, Marathas, and others. It is full of criticism. If you take critique as an analytical capacity, imagine how much analysis you do thinking about four walls to cover with paint," she stated.

Furthermore, she said that a pertinent point is that when artists join art school, they are asked to change their breath and posture.

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4 THINGS TO DO

01 Live show

Enjoy your Friday night at one of the liveliest places that will be hosting DJ Goapu, who will be playing all his lively numbers. Known popularly as 'The Big Daddy of Bollywood', DJ Goapu is one of the most seasoned DJs who delivers great entertainment to dance events of all kinds.
Where: Tiger Tiger Brewhouse, lake 14, Sarjapur-Marathahalli Road, near Sunny Brooks Community
When: Friday, June 30; 10:30 pm onwards

02 Dance drama

Shraddha Dance Centre presents 'Shraddha Nrtyarnav, featuring Bharatanatyam performances by disciples of Shama Krishna. The event celebrates the 13th anniversary of the institution. The highlight of the evening is an interesting dance drama, 'Sri Krishna Pareekshanam, based on the book of the same name by DV Gundappa. The event is free for all. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval; When: Today; 6 pm**

03 Fun time

Dum Dama Dum, the theatre and reading festival that happened first in 2017, is back. This festival aims to bring together theatre and reading for children aged five and above and their parents. The one-day theatre festival will have plays from various renowned theatre artists, and on the other hand, kids can enter the world of books.
Where: Atta Galatta, 178, 5th Main, 9th Cross, 1st Stage Indiranagar
When: Sunday, July 2; 11 am-8 pm

04 Play scenes

Known for curating and presenting quality art programmes, Bhoomija Trust is bringing Girish Karnad's Tughlaq. This Kannada play is designed by popular stage designer and art director, MS Sathyu. It is directed by S Surendranath. The play features a stellar cast of several popular Kannada television, theatre, and film actors. **Where: Ranga Shankara; When: Friday, June 30; 7:30 pm and Saturday, July 1; 3:30 pm-7:30 pm**

Three is not a lucky number for bike riders

Bengaluru police enforce strict helmet safety measures for children on triple riding

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The police in Bengaluru have taken a strong stance against "triple riding" on two-wheelers, even if it means allowing two children on board. MN Anuchet, the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said, "In the interest of students' health and compliance with traffic rules, all riders, including the rider and pillion, must wear helmets at all times. We cannot ignore children and exempt them from wearing helmets, as this is unacceptable. The well-being of kids cannot be disregarded."

Bengaluru, like many other cities, has witnessed parents frequently travelling on two-wheelers with one or two children. As a response, some individuals are urging the Karnataka government to adopt the Kerala model, where fines are not imposed on two-wheeler riders with children below 12 years of age. The Kerala government has written to the centre seeking an exemption and has decided not to levy fines until they receive a response.

Half helmets without securely fastened straps, not allowed

However, Anuchet clarified "There has never been leniency for triple riding, even if it involves children. According to regulations, a maximum of two riders is allowed, and the police can file cases against violators." Anuchet stressed that all riders, including children, should wear helmets for safety purposes.

Despite the demand for exemption, the centre has rejected the proposal to allow children below 12 years of age to ride with their parents on two-wheelers. Instead, the centre has outlined guidelines stating that the speed of bikes with children should not exceed 40 kmph, and it is mandatory for children to wear helmets with securely fastened straps.

"Parents have been observed making their children wear half helmets without securely fastened straps. Not considered as helmets" B'luru police

The police have emphasised the importance of wearing Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)-certified helmets, including for children. Some parents have been observed making their children wear half helmets without securely fastened straps, which are not considered helmets by the police. To enforce this, new cameras have been installed, and the mechanism recognises half helmets as if they were no helmets, resulting in fines being issued.

Although police have been cracking down on half helmets, the effort has not been entirely comprehensive, as some officers have been seen wearing such helmets.

Customer attacked for charger

A man has been detained on charges of assaulting a customer, at a mobile store in the Madanayakanahalli Police Station limits. The accused, identified as Manjunath, allegedly beat the victim following a heated argument.

According to a senior police officer, Manjunath and another individual named Shreyas, both local suspects in their late 20s, visited the mobile store in the evening. They approached the store owner and demanded a charger.

The shop owner denied which sparked a disagreement between the accused and the victim which led to physical altercation.

Ice cream truck topples, killing 2

An ice cream container overturned on the Attibele Circle, Anekal Taluk, highway. The accident occurred as the container was en route from Bommasandra to Hoskote. This incident killed the driver and the cleaner from Tamil Nadu. The fire brigade and Attibele police arrived immediately at the spot and carried out an evacuation. The bodies were taken to Oxford Hospital.

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Looking for a sign

South Western Railways finally 'starts' work on Carmelaram Railway Overbridge; citizens will only buy on ground progress

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With over seven years of delay in the Carmelaram Railway Overbridge (ROB) project, there seems to be a ray of hope. The South Western Railways (SWR) finally claims to have started the work. The SWR aims to complete the work in the next 18 months, which could help thousands of commuters.

In early June, SWR put up a banner near the Carmelaram railway crossing gate LC 132, asking commuters to take a diversion as the ROB work was in progress. They stated that the road for commuters would be diverted from June 5. However, people continued to commute through the same railway gate stretch. On June 26, the railways finally closed down the stretch, barricading the road and asking people to take the alternative route - the parallel road connecting Sarjapur Road to Gunjurpalya Road.

Commuters passing through the railway gate had complained of severe traffic congestion for many years. Despite following up with officials from various departments, the project was put on hold.

Carmelaram Road is one of the most congested stretches in the city. Hundreds of commuters coming from Sarjapur Road use the Carmel railway line route to reach places like Gunjur or Varthur Road.

As the train passes through the railway track frequently, the gates are usually closed for commuters. The wait time is at least 15-20 minutes. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has come forward and sanctioned the project at Rs 25 crore and work will be executed by SWR officials.

Clement Jayakumar from Mahadevapura Task Force said, "Financial approval for the project was given five years ago, but there were continuous plan changes. Initially, the railways wanted a modification for lane doubling, and there were also land acquisition issues.

Then KRide stepped in, stating they needed two tracks for suburban railways. Considering all of this, new plans needed to be made, and more land was required. The plan changed three times, causing major delays."

> **"Financial approval for the project was given five years ago, but there were continuous plan changes** – Clement Jayakumar, Mahadevapura Task Force

The challenges faced during land acquisition were that the owners wanted Transferable Development Rights (TDR) to be given to them, and approval for tree cutting for the project was also pending for a long time. Last year, the BBMP granted permission, and trees were cut down.

MLA Manjula Arvind said, "The timeline for completing this project is 18 months, and the level crossing will be closed during this construction period. I have instructed officials to ensure that projects are delivered on time to avoid any inconvenience."

The new CDP road connecting Gunjur to Sarjapur Main Road, which has been marked as an alternative route for the residents, covers more distance than the original railway crossing gate road. However, officials have assured that residents will not lose any time and can commute easily.

A member from Carmelaram Reunites said, "The never-ending land acquisition issue of the Carmelaram ROB has created a lot of inconvenience for commuters. Currently, we are unaware of the work taking place. In the past, we have seen multiple elected representatives assuring us that the project will start with budget approvals given, but nothing happened.

This time, we will only be convinced once we see work on the ground."

The timeline for completing this project has reportedly been fixed at 18 months; and this level crossing will be closed during this period

Freedom can't be restricted to Freedom Park

A coalition of civil societies and citizens of Bengaluru came together on Wednesday afternoon to voice their opinion against a police order issued in 2022 that restricted public protests to only Freedom Park. The confederation, named Horatada Hakkigaagi Janandolana, formed a human chain at the Majestic Bus stand, demanding the withdrawal of the restrictive order passed by the previous government.

The Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations, and Protest Marches (Bengaluru City) order, 2021, which came into effect last year, states that protesting anywhere else in the city, except at Freedom Park, is illegal.

"We want the police to withdraw this order they issued in 2022, citing an interim order of Karnataka High Court. That interim order is not valid as the court went on and passed a judgment saying peaceful rallies are allowed. The right to protest is given to us by our constitution. The police cannot issue such orders and take away our constitutional right," said Vinay Sreenivasa, a member of the coalition.

Those participating in the event say the order has caused enormous hardship to many seeking to exercise their constitutional rights. It is against the spirit of plural and diverse Karnataka, where all citizens can voice their concerns.

Vehicles drive by an unopened multi-level parking facility in Freedom Park

"Through this order, the police have been curtailing our fundamental right to protest by prohibiting demonstrations, dharnas, or protest marches in Bengaluru city without obtaining a license," said another citizen attending the event.

Citizens also highlight that the order has been strictly implemented by the police, resulting in many cases being filed against several communities for engaging in their constitutional right to protest.

"This includes workers for the traditional May Day rally, Powrakarmikas protesting for their rights, residents of Malleswaram for organising a walk on the Sankey flyover issue, and also LGBTQ+ people who wanted to organise their traditional pride march last year," added Sreenivasa.

Participants further added that by being relegated to a corner of the city where no one can see the protest, the significance of the demonstration itself gets devalued. The restricting of protests to Freedom Park ruins the meaning of democracy and renders it hollow.

"Protecting our right to protest and freedom to assemble has been snatched away. We have assembled to demand that the order be immediately withdrawn and the fundamental right of every Bangalorean be restored," said Surabhi KC, a city-based law student present at the event.

Horatada Hakkigaagi Janandolana has also launched a signature campaign in the city to garner the support of Bengalureans. — BMB

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Broken footpath

Manjunath Nagar

There are numerous broken tiles and gaps on the footpaths in Manjunath Nagar, Rajajinagar

Safety risk

Austin Town

In 5th square, Austin Town, desilting was carried out months ago, but the slabs were not properly cemented back.

Clearance needed

Victoria Road

Debris in the drains near the Hosmat traffic signal towards Victoria Road is causing traffic jams.

Pride Month: Inclusion is key

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

More than 200 members of sexual minorities gathered at the Maharashtra Mandal in Bengaluru on Wednesday to celebrate the Rainbow Festival. Many of them participated in cultural programmes.

Actress and multilingual theatre personality Arundathi Nag asked sexual minorities to visit Ranga Mandira, which entered its 20th year. "I recall two plays were organised by sexual minorities at Ranga Mandira. I want more and more sexual minorities not only to visit but to utilise Ranga Mandira to showcase their talent," said Nag.

She added that she has been attending programmes organised by sexual minorities all these years and wants to continue in the future. "I think that I have contributed something for sexual minorities by attending their programmes," she explained.

Former member of Rajya Sabha MV Rajeev Gowda recalled how he worked as a 'reporter' for the Times of India by writing an article on Rajya Sabha passing a private member's bill on the rights of transgenders.

"DMK member Tiruchi Siva introduced the bill on April 24, 2015. We all supported the bill. It was the first time in 45 years that the Rajya Sabha passed a private member's bill. Then-Finance Minister Arun Jaitley appealed to Tiruchi Siva to withdraw the bill, but the latter refused. With no other option, Arun Jaitley has extended support to the bill," said Gowda.

Earlier, Madhu and Shravya, who got government jobs under the one per cent reservation for transgender people, were felicitated. Five mothers of transgenders were also felicitated on the occasion.

"I will never forget the encouragement and support provided by Sangama. Now, I have been working at a court in Tumakuru," said Madhu.

Meanwhile, Sangama executive director Rajesh announced the plan to celebrate the Rainbow Festival on June 28 every year in the future. Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha leader Veerasangaiah JM spoke on the occasion.

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Small owners crack big jackpot

Knotty Charmer strikes gold at Bangalore Turf Club's classic Sunday showdown

Knotty Charmer, the champion horse, is 'blessed' with a classic temperament and is easy to train

A seven-member partnership syndicate hit the jackpot when they picked up the classy Knotty Charmer from the Bishan Stud Farm at a reasonable cost of Rs 17 lakh. The horse struck gold in the showdown at sundown on the classic day at the Bangalore Turf Club. The victory helped 'The Magnificent Seven' take home Rs 30 lakh. Moments after the star performer uncorked the champagne effort, the bubbly started to flow, and it was time for song and dance all night long. The champion colt entered the Hall of Fame by winning the prestigious Colts Championship, the second classic of the summer horse racing season, in addition to his three straight victories in winter. There was no flash in the pan. Knotty Charmer had the credentials to make the classic elite list, and he did his owners proud by successfully competing against and beating all the big boys from East and West in resplendent style.

The knock-out punch he delivered on the big stage provided confidence and encouragement to the small owners in the game. They can now dream big as even cheap buys can turn out to be big money-spinners. Knotty Charmer, from his seven starts, has already won Rs 65 lakh in stakes. The champion colt will next parade his skills in the Mysore season, and the local hero from Bengaluru is certain to maintain his winning streak.

The unassuming trainer Prasanna Kumar, who has played a stellar role in Knotty Charmer's race to fame, disclosed that the champion is blessed with a classic temperament and is easy to train. "He understands what is expected from him, and he simply knows how to get the job done, and that's what separates him from the rest," said Prasanna, who is consistently producing champions like War Hammer, Evaldo, and Knotty Charmer from his strong yard.

Prasanna disclosed that he always thought Knotty Charmer had the potential. "He is a gutsy performer with a big heart, and he really stretched every sinew to emerge as the best of his age and sex in the classic event," he said, lauding the effort of the young Delhi-based 'Knight' G Vivek, who provided the icing on the cake by producing an exemplary effort in the big test. It was a moment Vivek will cherish most, considering the fact that it was his maiden success this season.

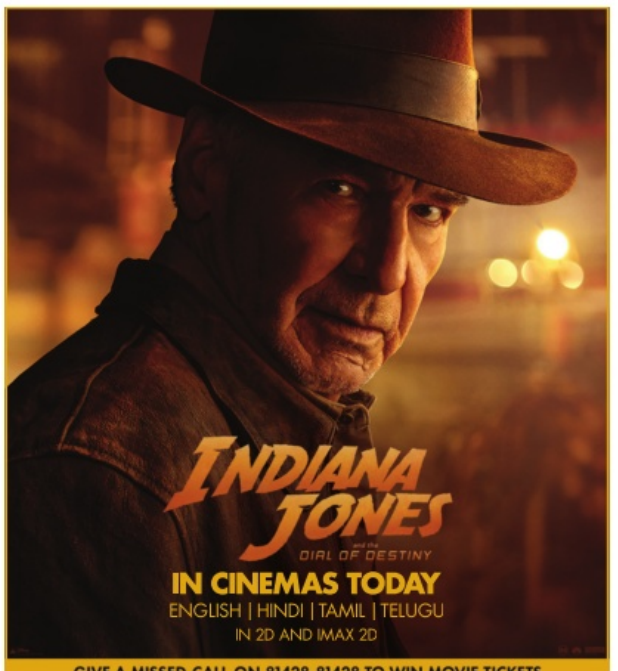
"He had the class to negotiate a mile, and it was the class which stamped authority and brought home the desired result," said K Kamesh, spearhead of the lucky syndicate. Swaroop Kumar, another sporting member proudly posing for the shutterbugs after Charmer's emphatic victory, revealed that he enjoyed being part of the lively syndicate the moment it was formed.

The other five members of the group, K Balamukunda Das, Srikanth Badruka, Dharmesh Mehta, Sanjeev Basappa, and MN Nambiar, made it clear that it was a good team effort and the champion provided the silver lining. – Ikram Khan

'10 weeks to redo delimitation'

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday granted the state government 10 weeks to redo the delimitation and reservation process for the zilla panchayat and taluk panchayats.

The Advocate General on Wednesday mentioned the petition pending before the division bench headed by Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale, and sought 10 weeks' time from the day to redo the delimitation and reservation lists and issue the notifications. The HC recorded the submission made by the AG as an undertaking given to the court. It directed the state to furnish the necessary notifications of delimitation and reservation for zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats in 10 weeks and file a compliance report. It also directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to take necessary steps thereafter. The hearing of the petition was directed to be listed after 11 weeks. The SEC had prepared for the ZP-TP polls in Karnataka in April and May of 2021. It had completed the delimitation exercise on constituencies and the final list of voters was also published, following which the reservation draft was also announced by the SEC. However, before the SEC could announce the election schedule, the then BJP government ruling the state amended the Karnataka Panchayat Raj and Gram Swaraj Act. – PTI



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FARNAZ

No rice? No problem. The CM has funds!

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Failing to procure rice in a timely manner, the state government has made the decision to provide cash payments to beneficiaries at the rate of Rs 34 per kilogram for the additional 5kg of foodgrains promised under the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme. The disbursement of funds will commence from July 1.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the government has opted to initiate an open market tender process for rice procurement, which will begin on Thursday.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa said that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set a standard rate of Rs 34 per kilogram for rice. "We attempted to procure rice, but no institution came forward to supply the required amount. Since the launch date of Anna Bhagya is approaching (July 1) and we have made a commitment, today in the cabinet meeting, the CM, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, and other ministers decided that until the rice supply is arranged, we will provide cash to below poverty line (BPL) ration cardholders," he explained.

The minister clarified that if there is one person listed on a ration card, they will receive Rs 170 per month for the additional five kilograms of rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme. For two persons on a ration card, the entitlement will be Rs 340, and for households with five members, the amount will be Rs 850 per month. Muniyappa mentioned that the government has made arrangements to directly deposit the funds into the beneficiaries' bank accounts.

The Karnataka government argued that they attempted to provide an additional five kilograms of rice free of charge to BPL families under the Anna Bhagya scheme, in addition to the five kilograms provided by the central government. However, the Union government allegedly did not cooperate.

The Chief Minister clarified that the additional five kilograms of rice are in addition to the five kilograms already provided by the central government. He said, "We had promised to provide 10 kg of rice. The central government is already providing five, and we will offer an additional five."

Grihalakshmi app soon

Women and Child Welfare Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar announced that the Cabinet has approved the Grihalakshmi scheme's app. However, they have decided to delay its rollout for a few more days. The minister stated, "The beneficiaries will receive the allowance from August. We have postponed the app launch currently."

RaGa not off the hook yet

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash the FIR against Congress party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, and Supriya Shrinate for the alleged copyright violation of music from the hit film KGF Chapter-2.

The single judge bench pronounced the judgment on Wednesday, dismissing the petition filed by the three Congress leaders. M Naveen Kumar of MRT Music, a sister concern of Lahari Music, had filed the complaint at Yeshwanthpur police station alleging that the music from the film, to which it has the copyright, was used by the Congress party in a promotional video of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. The HC said, "The petitioners seem to have taken the copyright of the company for granted. Therefore prima facie all these as a matter of evidence has to be trashed out in an investigation." The FIR was registered under sections including 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 403 (Dishonest misappropriation of property) of the Indian Penal Code, Section 33 of Copyright Act and Section 66 of Information Technology Act. On behalf of the Congress leaders, it was argued that the issue was related to copyright infringement but a criminal complaint was filed and immediately an FIR was registered by the police. –PTI

Lokayukta police raids office, premises of 15 govt offices in DA cases

The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Wednesday conducted massive search operations across the state in connection with 15 Disproportionate Assets (DA) cases registered against as many government officers in various Lokayukta police stations across Karnataka.

According to a statement issued by the office of the Lokayukta, the cases were registered in Bengaluru city, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapura, Chikkamagaluru, Madikeri, Tumakuru, Vijayapura, Bagalkote, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Belagavi, Kolar and Yadgir.

Simultaneously, a search of the residences and offices of the accused government officers and their relatives were conducted in 62 locations across the state, the statement said.

"The Searches led to the disclosure of properties of approximate value of Rs 1.90 crores, including Rs 40 lakhs in cash.

The searches also disclosed documents related to several properties in the names of other people running into hundreds of acres of land and also several high end cars which are currently being suspected to be Benami properties of the accused. Matter is under investigation," the statement said.

The officers who were raided by the Lokayukta sleuths include Chetana, joint director of agriculture department in Bagalkote; Krishna Ramappa Shirur; Jinnappa Padmanna Shetti, the assistant executive engineer of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitisation Department in Muddebihal in Vijayapura; and Bhimanagouda Birada, assistant executive engineer in the public works department in Basavana Bagewadi in Vijayapura. **PTI**

ATTACK OF THE SNATCH GANG

Phones gone in a flash

Citizens report increase in mobile thefts on the road; latest victim is cyclist

| Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of the city have been falling victim to a growing menace of mobile phone thefts on the streets. Disturbing incidents have been captured on video and shared widely on social media, raising concerns about the safety of individuals in public spaces. The latest incident occurred on Hoskote Road, where two thieves on a motorcycle targeted a cyclist, stealing his mobile phone before making a swift escape. The incident was recorded by a friend who was cycling alongside.

"I was coming from Hope Farm Circle towards KR Puram when two people who were on a bike started coming close to my cycle. Then the pillion rider tried to snatch the phone, which was on my handlebar. So, when the guy reached out from behind, I sensed it and I immediately held his hand, like that I was dragged on for a distance of about 100 metres because they were on a bike and the speed was much more than my cycle," he said.

A resident of Ejipura said that the danger is more when people walk about in the night while talking on their phones. "It is easier for miscreants to snatch phones and make a run for it. Stealing phones is much easier than chain snatching because it doesn't take much time. Also, most of the accused are habitual offenders who are aware of the area and keep roaming there," they said.

Another resident, Nihar Thakkar, said that recently he has seen people posting on social media about mobile thefts. "If there is more patrolling and the police are more responsive to complaints, it will help in curbing crimes. People who were waiting to steal something will get scared off if they see police around," he said.

According to DCP south-east CK Baba, it is crowded places such as parks, buses, and other public places where these thefts occur. "There is a preventive part, but other than that we have the maximum number of CCTV cameras and post the incident also, we check the visuals and try to get hold of the accused. On June 27, we recovered around 170 smartphones, worth Rs 30 lakh," said Baba.

Baba also added that victims should call 112 immediately after the theft or attempt to theft so that the patrolling staff that is nearby other than the regular patrolling vehicle, can reach the spot.

160 phones, 33 laptops seized from 2 gangs

The police seized 160 mobile phones and 33 laptops worth Rs 49 lakh from a gang. The recovery was made by the Madiwala and Mico Layout police station. The accused have been identified as Abhishek, Srinivas, Santhosh, Laxman and Karthik.

For some days, two gangs were operating separately in the South East of the city, stealing phones. City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said that after investigating the matter and based on information, the accused were arrested by the police when they tried to sell the stolen goods. **BMB**

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Now, pay more to go on a dangerous drive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rs 2.2 per km for one-way travel and Rs 1.73 per km for a round trip within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, concerns have been expressed regarding safety on the Mysuru Road, with 91 fatalities and 365 injuries recorded on this expressway alone. The police have submitted a dossier to the NHAI, urging immediate corrective measures.

Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Traffic and Road Safety in Bengaluru, inspected the road on Tuesday and expressed his shock at the high number of accidents occurring. He highlighted issues with entry and exit points, as well as the presence of many curves that result in vehicles toppling, falling off dividers after accidents, or losing control due to speeding.

"We have asked the NHAI to install speed limit signs and emphasise on the need for road users to strictly adhere to lane disciplines. There is a need for signage at curves, as there is currently a shortage of them. In Ramanagara district, there are only four highway patrol vehicles, but radar guns will be used to monitor speeding within a week. Reckless drivers will face consequences, including possible suspension or cancellation of their driver's licences," he said.

The goal was to reduce accidents by 30% in July alone for which the NHAI will also be urged to address these issues promptly, he said. He also appealed to road users to drive responsibly, strictly follow traffic rules, and stressed that traffic rules are meant not just to avoid fines but to protect lives as well.

Kumar said, "Drivers should avoid overtaking from the wrong side, use indicators while changing lanes. There is a need to use seat belts and stop usage of mobile phones while driving." He also discouraged inexperienced drivers from honing their skills on highways, stating that only those fit for driving should do so. The maximum speed limit on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway is currently 100 kmph, but NHAI has been asked to reduce it to 60 or 80 kmph at curves. "We have asked the NHAI to take up short-term proposals, including the installation of signage. Failure to comply will result in action taken against the responsible parties, amounting to contributory negligence. The NHAI has been urged to create emergency exit gates for faster ambulance access and construct skywalks, although financial issues have been cited as a challenge," he added.

No room for leisure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A study by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS) released last year found that domestic workers in Bengaluru and Chennai would have to work in six low-paying households to earn the state minimum wage.

The study had found that the wages for domestic workers ranged between Rs 2,000 and Rs 13,000 in Bengaluru. Since the minimum wage for domestic workers in Karnataka ranges from Rs 12,241 to Rs 14,711, a worker would have to work in six of the lowest-paying households in Bengaluru to make the minimum wage.

Since the study by IIHS is based on the employers' responses, it does not say how many hours a domestic worker would have to work to earn the minimum wage.

Podi, a domestic worker in Attiguppe, said that she works in four houses spread across the locality and since the timings are set by her employers, it is according to their convenience and is often arbitrary.

"I have to run up and down, across the locality according to timings that change on a daily basis. One employer among them is empathetic enough to let me catch a few breaths on their sofa before laying out the chores for the day but otherwise, there is no room for leisure," she said.

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I Radhika Ghongane D/O. Arvind Navnath Ghongane R/o No 276 3rd Main 4th Cross Sbi Bank Building 4th Floor Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore 560056 have changed my name to Radhika Arvind Ghongane

I Devasigamani Prabhakara R/a #593, 11th "A" Cross Road, 30th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector-I, B'lore-560102, have changed my name to Deivasigamani Prabhakar vide affidavit dt 28.06.2023, before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar

I Vijin S/O, Venkatesh Devaraj R/o N0-83/2,2nd Cross,1st Main,kalanagar Main Road, kammagondanahalli, bengaluru-15 have changed my name to Vijin Joseph Venkatesh for all purposes.

I, Lakshmi/ Lakshmi Kathyasandra Venkateswara Rao Residing at No.101, Sapthagiri Nivas, 2nd Main, 6th Cross, New Sapthagiri Layout, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061 have changed my name to Lakshmi Venkateswara Rao vide affidavit dated 28.06.2023 Sworn before notary K.S.Nataraja, Bangalore

I Kiran Kumar H R S/O, Ramesh R/o Hunisehally Village, Vagata Post, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka 562114 have changed my name to Kiran R Gowda for all purposes.

I, Shaikh Zulekha Sayyadali W/o Rajjab Shaikh # 278 1st main 5th cross Darghamohalla Vijinapura Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to Zulekha Shaikh for all purpose

I, Shaikh Fakruddin Nalaso S/o Nalaso Aba Shaikh #278 1st Main 5th Cross Dhargamohall Tin factory B'lore-560016 have changed my name Fakaruddin N Shaikh for all purposes

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The coffee experience

It seems caffiene is not enough to kickstart one's day; it just has to be the whole experience

Many people don't consider the day to begin until their coffee mug is empty. Coffee is commonly assumed to increase alertness, thus individuals drink it to wake themselves up and improve their productivity. Portuguese researchers analysed coffee consumers to determine whether the wakefulness effect is due to caffeine qualities or the experience of drinking coffee.

"There is a common expectation that coffee increases alertness and psychomotor functioning," said Prof Nuno Sousa of the University of Minho, corresponding author of the study in Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience and Field Chief Editor of the journal. "When you get to understand better the mechanisms underlying a biological phenomenon, you open pathways for exploring the factors that may modulate it and even the potential benefits of that mechanism."

A caffeine kickstart

The scientists recruited people who drank a minimum of one cup of coffee per day and asked them to refrain from eating or drinking caffeinated beverages for at least three hours before the study. They interviewed the participants to collect sociodemographic data, and then did two brief functional MRI scans: one before and one 30 minutes after either taking caffeine or drinking a standardized cup of coffee. During the functional MRI scans, the participants were asked to relax and let their minds wander.

Because of the known neurochemical effects of drinking coffee, the scientists expected that the functional MRI scans would show that the people who drank coffee had higher integration of networks that are linked to the prefrontal cortex, associated with executive memory, and the default mode network, involved in introspection and self-reflection processes. They found that the connectivity of the default mode network was decreased both after drinking coffee and after taking caffeine, which indicates that consuming either caffeine or coffee made people more prepared to move from resting to working on tasks.

Waking up on the right side of the bed

However, drinking coffee also increased the connectivity in the higher visual network and the right executive control network - parts of the brain that are involved in working memory, cognitive control, and goal-directed behavior. This didn't happen when participants only took caffeine. In other words, if you want to feel not just alert but ready to go, caffeine alone won't do - you need to experience that cup of coffee.

"Acute coffee consumption decreased the functional connectivity between brain regions of the default mode network, a network that is associated with self-referential processes when participants are at rest," said Dr Maria Pico-Perez of Jaume I University, first author. "The functional connectivity was also decreased between the somatosensory/motor networks and the prefrontal cortex, while the connectivity in regions of the higher visual and the right executive control network was increased after drinking coffee. In simple words, the subjects were more ready for action and alert to external stimuli after having coffee."

"Taking into account that some of the effects that we found were reproduced by caffeine, we could expect other caffeinated drinks to share some of the effects," added Pico-Perez. "However, others were specific for coffee drinking, driven by factors such as the particular smell and taste of the drink, or the psychological expectation associated with consuming that drink."

The authors pointed out that it is possible that the experience of drinking coffee without caffeine could cause these benefits: this study could not differentiate the effects of the experience alone from the experience combined with the caffeine. There is also a hypothesis that the benefits coffee drinkers claim could be due to the relief of withdrawal symptoms, which this study did not test.

"The changes in connectivity were studied during a resting-state sequence. Any association with psychological and cognitive processes is interpreted based on the common function ascribed to the regions and networks found, but it was not directly tested," cautioned Sousa. "Moreover, there could be individual differences in the metabolism of caffeine among participants."

-ANI

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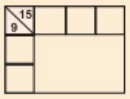
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

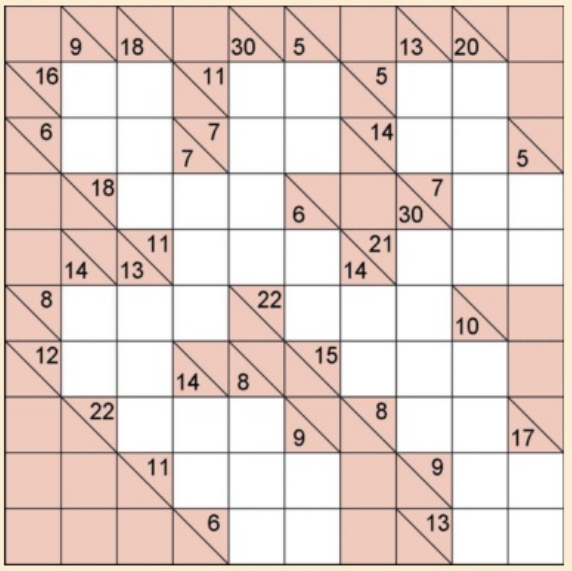
The age of a father 10 years ago was thrice the age of his son. Ten years hence, the father's age will be twice that of his son. The ratio of their present ages is

Kakuro

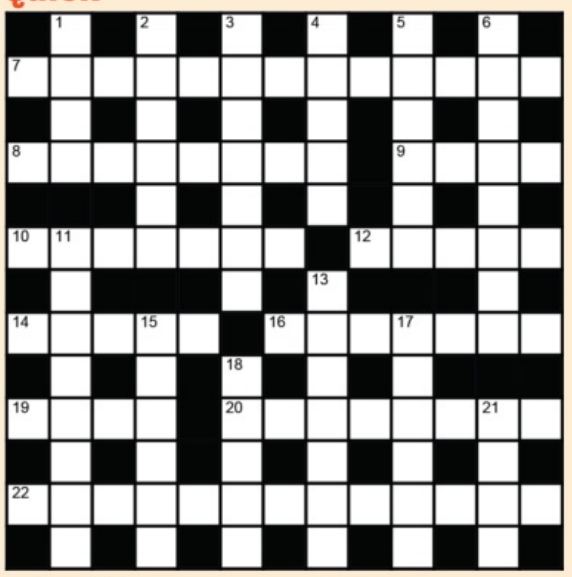
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Big fire (13)
8 Harem (8)
9 Strike heavily (4)
10 Mapped out (7)
12 Fleshy, muscular (5)
14 Unrefined (5)
16 Sudden attack (7)
19 Unable to speak (4)
20 Two, three and four in comparison to ace, king and queen? (3,5)
22 Focusing (13)

DOWN

1 Style (4)
2 An illicit or amorous relationship (6)
3 Counts up (7)
4 Convincing evidence (5)
5 Steady; solid (6)
6 Inclined to brag (8)
11 Immediately after this (8)
13 Cinema in the Banashankari area (7)
15 Offensive smell (6)
17 ___ and Ellora caves (6)
18 Sightless (5)
21 Completed (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS H

NK RNQ IXKKA RWXX IWZNV MZMWY.

Linemaro

This is your lucky day, because I just happen to be single

Mindchow

This is the time. This is the place. This is the vastness. Right here is paradise. Always.

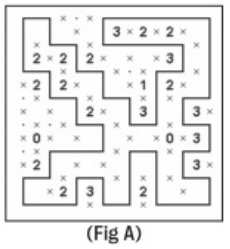
Joke of the day

How are men like noodles? They are always in hot water, they lack taste, and they need dough

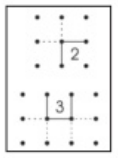
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

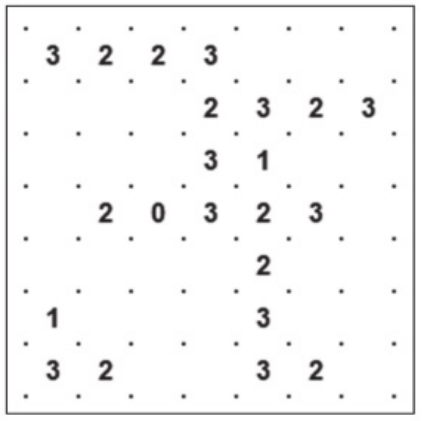


(Fig B) Not Allowed

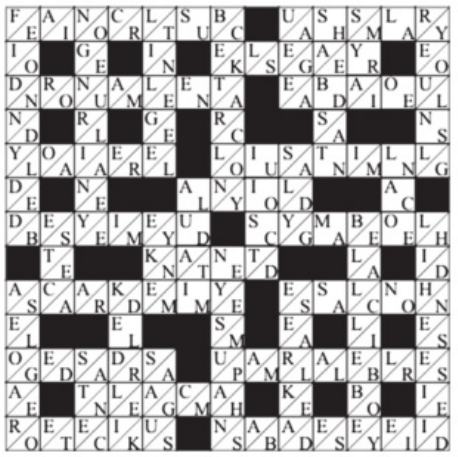
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



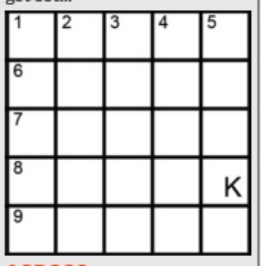
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

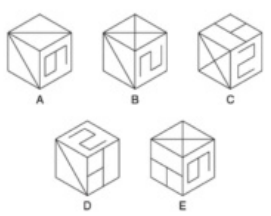
1 Sir CB; 6 Siren;
7 Oasis; 8 CK Hun;
9 Gees I

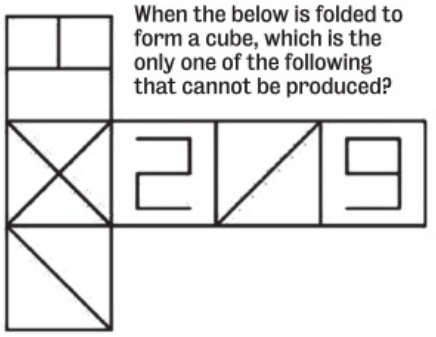
DOWN

1 Or CCs; 2 Irish;
3 Sues I; 4 Begin;
5 Skean

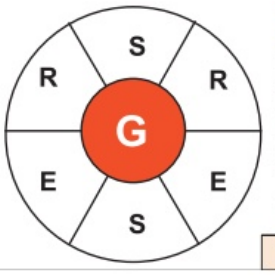
Mensapuzzle

When the below is folded to form a cube, which is the only one of the following that cannot be produced?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

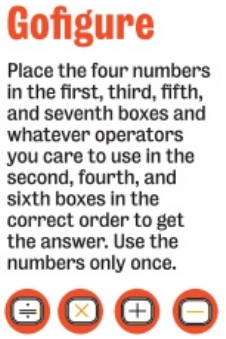
SudokuChallenge

8								4
	7						1	
		1	5	2	3	9		
	1	4				2	6	
2			3		8			1
	8	9				4	5	
		7	8	5	9	6		
	3						7	
6								9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

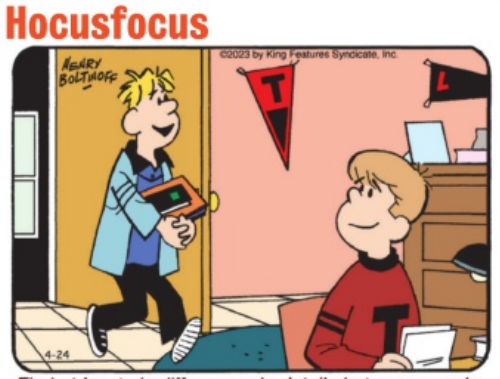


Easy = 3
2 4 5 8

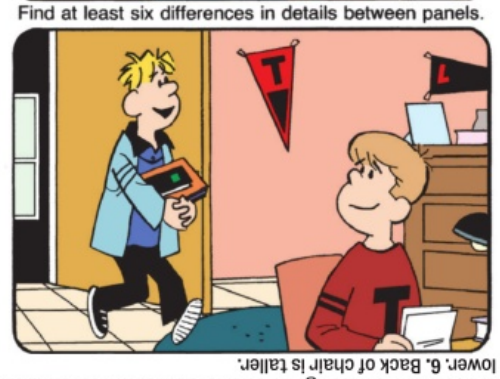
Medium = 8
2 3 4 8

Hard = 5
5 7 9 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sleeve is longer. 2. Desk lamp is taller. 3. Doorknob is missing. 4. Neckline is different. 5. Pennant is lower. 6. Back of chair is taller.

Riddler

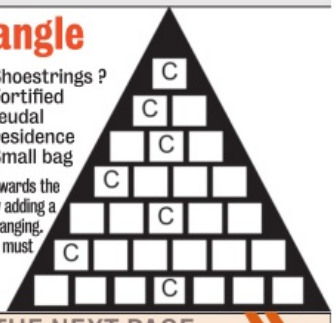
Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with a letter deleted (example: brand & band). The length of the first word in each pair is provided, along with the position of the deleted letter to obtain the second word.

1) something absurd or ridiculous (5 letters) & (delete 4th letter) money paid for transportation
2) a type of fruit (6 letters) & (delete 1st letter) a place for shooting practice
3) a dead body (6 letters) & (delete 3rd letter) a thicket of small trees or shrubs
4) to chew loudly (5 letters) & (delete 3rd letter) a great amount or quantity

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Calcium for the chemist
3 Expert
4 Lawsuit
5 Shoestrings ?
6 Fortified feudal residence
7 Small bag

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

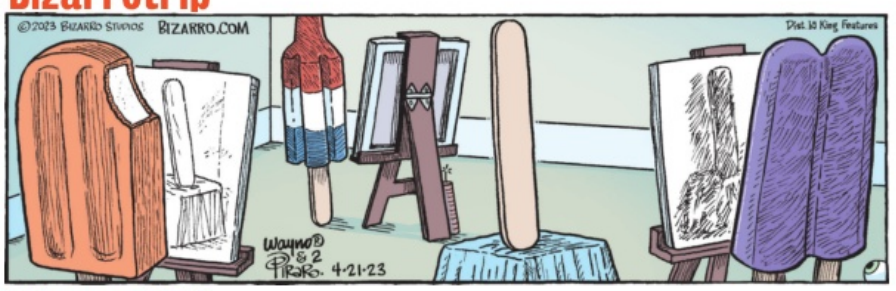


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

SING ME THE WORST EARWORM EVER!
C'MON, C'MON! I'M STRONG! I CAN TAKE IT!
♪IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL
MY SOUL JUST LEFT MY BODY
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Hart of the city

MR. KAT'S DAD, WHATEVER YOU'RE COOKING SMELLS AMAZING!
THEY'RE BRUSSELS SPROUTS!
REALLY?! BUT THEY SMELL SO GOOD...
JUST TASTE IT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS THERE MORE?!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

AFTER TWO PANDEMIC YEARS...
Murder at the Book Club
L. McKenzie
IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU HERE AT THE OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL AGAIN!
AFTER TWO PANDEMIC YEARS...
IT'S SO NICE TO BE SEEN!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
4-18

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may have good support from your family members. You may also experience some expansion in your family business, which will increase the social status of your family. Additionally, you may plan to expand your family with a new child, which could improve the bond between family members. Students may also apply for scholarships for higher studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel more spiritual, and your destiny may be on your side. You can expect good gains from your past investments. The bond with your boss is likely to improve, which may lead to benefits such as promotions. You may also receive some good news from your siblings. It is advised to control your harsh speech in love and personal life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may experience sleeplessness, which can make you feel lazy and careless. This may have a negative impact on your inner strength. You may feel nervous at work, which could affect your ongoing projects. It is advised to avoid investing in unproductive things and to steer clear of spicy food, as it may lead to digestive issues. Additionally, you should avoid rushing while driving.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel happy and spread happiness around you. There may be harmony in your domestic life, and you may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in making important decisions in your professional life. Expect new ventures or partnerships in your business or work.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, the positive influence of the moon may make you happy. Utilise your patience at every stage. Your performance at work may be good, and you may receive incentives or rewards. Health issues concerning family members will be resolved. Job seekers are likely to find suitable positions in their field. Love birds may enjoy their dates.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may experience fixed results. It is advised not to expect too much from those around you, as it may lead to disappointment. Take time for self-exploration and self-analysis, which will help you filter yourself. After this process, you may feel confident and ready to accept challenges.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, dissatisfaction may upset you, and you may not be able to enjoy even a single moment. Lack of patience could affect your work. Be mindful of silly mistakes that may happen. Consider visiting a religious place for seeking peace, and practice meditation or yoga.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and your destiny is likely to be in your favor. You may feel more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay off with success. Colleagues may provide assistance, and you may have to go on a short work-related trip. Some good news may come from your sibling.

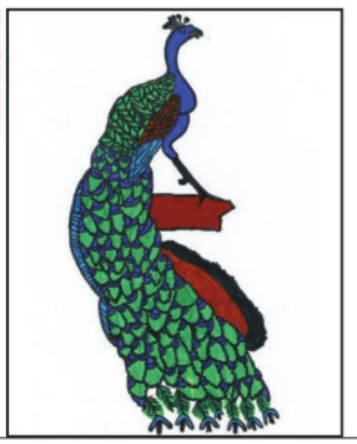
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy with family matters and important decisions on the domestic front. Avoid arguments in personal matters, as your arrogance could disrupt domestic harmony. By late evening, things will be under control. Trust your intuition before making business investments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, messy situations are now under control, bringing peace to your mind. You may achieve a proper balance between expenditure and earnings, improving your financial health. Avoid excessive travelling or overworking, as it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their future, and love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may face health issues due to sleeplessness and mental fatigue. This may affect your focus and commitment to your work. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventurous tours. Also, avoid spending money on unnecessary items.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy with social gatherings and reunions with old friends. Your network may strengthen, which could benefit you in the near future regarding work. Those involved in exports, imports, glamour, and artifacts may perform better. Students are likely to excel in their studies today. Love birds may also enjoy happy moments.

KIDZONE



Y Parinitha Kapoor, 8 Years, Baldwins Girls High School

Swara, 10 Years, Shishugriha High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Let son's age 10 years ago be x.
Father's age 10 years ago = 3x
2(x+20) = (3x+20)
x = 20
10 years ago, father's age = 60 years and son's age = 20 years
Ration of their present age = 70:30 = 7:3

BULL'S EYE
egress, REGRESS, serge

STRIKE OUT

F	A	N	C	L	U	B	A	S	A	S	A	Y		
O	E	I	E	L	G	A	R	O						
N	O	U	M	E	N	A	D	I	E	U				
D	R	G	C	A	N									
L	O	I	R	E	O	U	S	T	I	N	G			
E	N	A	N	I	L	C								
D	E	M	E	D	S	Y	M	B	O	L				
T	K	A	N	T	A	I								
A	C	A	D	E	M	Y	S	A	L	O	N			
L	E	M	E	L	L	S								
G	E	A	R	S	P	A	R	A	B	L	E			
E	T	E	A	C	H	E	O	E						
R	E	E	K	S	S	A	D	E	Y	E	D			

QUICK

M	A	T	P	S	B	A	S	A	Y					
C	O	N	F	L	A	G	R	A	T	I	O	N		
S	E	R	A	G	L	I	O	B	A	S	H			
D	F	L	O	A	A									
C	H	A	R	T	E	D	B	E	E	F	Y			
I	I	F	L	T										
C	R	A	S	S	A	S	S	A	U	L	T			
E	S	E	U											
M	U	T	E	L	O	W	C	A	R	D	S			
E	T	B	H	J										
P	N	I	A	N	O									
C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	T	I	N	G		
N	H	D	I	A	E									

MENSA PUZZLE
A

RIDDLER
1) farce & fare,
2) orange & range,
3) corpse & copse,
4) munch & much

QUOTE UNCODE
He who flees will fight again.

SUDOKU

6	2	5	1	3	7	8	4	9
9	3	8	4	6	2	1	7	5
1	4	7	8	5	9	6	3	2
7	8	9	2	1	6	4	5	3
2	5	6	3	4	8	7	9	1
3	1	4	7	9	5	2	6	8
4	6	1	5	2	3	9	8	7
5	7	2	9	8	4	3	1	6
8	9	3	6	7	1	5	2	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, Ca, Ace, Case, Laces, Castle, Satchel.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 5 + 2 − 8 = 3
Medium
8 + 4 / 3 x 2 = 8
Hard
9 − 5 − 6 + 7 = 5

KAKURO

9	7	4	2	5	6	1	8	3
1	8	9	6	3	4	2	5	7
3	5	7	1	8	2	9	4	6
6	4	5	9	2	1	7	3	8
8	9	3	7	4	5	6	2	1
2	1	6	8	7	3	4	9	5
4	2	8	5	1	9	3	6	7
7	6	1	3	9	8	5	7	4
5	3	2	4	6	7	8	1	9

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On a song

Deepika turns cheerleader for husband on release of song from his film

Deepika Padukone is Ranveer Singh's biggest fan and she made sure to shower him with all her love as he released his new song 'Tum Kya Mile'.

The hunk, on Wednesday, dropped the first romantic number from his upcoming film 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'. The new song, composed by Pritam, penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya and crooned by Arijit Singh, sees Ranveer romancing his leading lady Alia Bhatt amidst the snowy landscape of the Kashmir valley.

Sharing the love ballad, Ranveer described it as, "The melody of love that will make your heart sing!"

Shortly after the actor shared the clip, his wifey Deepika took to her Instagram stories to post the clip and spread the word about its release. "Out Now" she captioned the video.

Meanwhile filmmaker Karan Johar, also penned a note of apology to his leading lady Alia saying, "This is also the first shoot Alia did after the birth of her angel and I remain in apology for freezing her in Manish Malhotra chiffons. In sympathy, I fell drastically ill through the shoot (a karmic punishment perhaps). Ranveer was nervous as this was his first lip sync mountain love song but he was a real trooper..." **–ETimes**

Everlasting allure of Sex and the City

Even after 25 years of its premiere, the cast of "Sex and the City" continues to be loved by the audience, says lead star Sarah Jessica Parker, who believes the show owes its popularity to the "intimate and candid" conversations among four women.

Based on Candace Bushnell's newspaper column and 1996 book anthology of the same name, the show originally ran as an HBO series for six seasons between 1998 and 2004, with the makers exploring the story further in two films.

Now, the spin-off of "Sex and the City", "And Just Like That..." is in its second season on streaming service Max.

Parker, who plays columnist-turned-podcaster Carrie Bradshaw in "And Just Like That...", took a trip down memory lane about the parent show.

"At the time because of our home at HBO, now Max, we were allowed to have conversations in ways that commercial television just didn't allow. We've been really lucky that there's been an audience, who's been so hospitable to us for a lot of years. We were allowed to have conversations in ways that commercial television just didn't allow...

"The kind of intimate, salty conversations that were being had among four women, that were about their intimate lives, had not yet been seen. There are and were and continue to be women who shared these kinds of conversations with their friends and they just hadn't seen it," the actor told PTI in a virtual roundtable interview. Set 11 years after the events of the 2010 film "Sex and the City 2", "And Just Like That..." follow three of the four friends Carrie, Miranda Hobbes (Cynthia Nixon) and Charlotte York Goldenblatt (Kristin Davis) as they make a transition into their 50s. It was announced that Kim Cattrall will officially return as Samantha Jones for a cameo in the second season finale. **–PTI**

Flower power

Katrina Kaif has an enviable collection of florals. Here's proof of it in 12 snaps

Watch this story come alive on your device by scanning this QR code

Rashmika all set

Actor Rashmika Mandanna has now kickstarted the shooting of her upcoming Pan-India film 'Pushpa: The Rule'.

On Tuesday, the actor took to her Instagram account and shared a sneak-peak from the sets of the film. She will reprise the role of Srivalli in the sequel to the blockbuster film.

The first movie in the franchise was 'Pushpa: The Rise', an action entertainer directed by Sukumar, which was released in theatres on December 17, 2021. The film, which stars Allu Arjun in the lead role, was widely praised. Fahadh Faasil was part of the film.

'Pushpa: The Rise' created a buzz at the box office as from dialogues to songs everything about the film was setting trends. It was already made clear that the 'Pushpa' will get a sequel. Allu Arjun, the superstar who delivered a power-packed performance is returning with the second instalment of the movie sooner than we expected. **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Silent movie

After a gap of 36 years, a silent movie is being made in Kannada. The movie – Mahaguru – will be the second silent movie in Sandalwood. Pushpaka Vimana, directed by Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, was released in 1987.

The muhurat function of Mahaguru was held on Tuesday. Mysuru Ramanand, Mahima Gupta, and Bank Janardhan will play key roles in the movie. Kasturi Jagannath has written the script and screenplay besides handling the megaphone for this movie. Mahaguru is about a tussle between a magician and a yakshi, who is guarding a treasure in a forest. Senior actor Mysuru Ramanand said he has played character roles in more than 350 Kannada movies. "I play a double role in the Kannada movie Stunt Master. Now, I am playing a double role in Mahaguru. It will be tough for me to play a double role in this movie as I have to act as a dwarf. I also play a magician who goes to the forest searching for treasure," said Ramanand. Kasturi Jagannath said the story would be narrated through sound effects and Yadakkavil Firoze, Jessina, and Ashok Kumar are bankrolling the movie. "It is my third movie. I am using computer graphicsfor this movie. I have already worked for nine months on it," he said.

Ayurveda on screen

The soundtrack of movie Madhura Kaavya was launched at SRV Theater, Malleswaram recently. Music director-cum-movie director V Manohar was the chief guest at the function. Manohar appreciated the music director and wished good luck to the cast and crew of the movie.

Music director Satheesh Maurya said the movie has three songs and four bits. "I met Manohar sir at Hamsalekha Desi College of Performing Arts & Research. I am grateful to him for gracing the function. I have used traditional musical instruments to compose music. Rajesh Krishnan, Madhu Balakrishnan, and Chitra have sung the songs," said Satheesh.

On the occasion, Madhusudhan Kyathanahalli, an ayurveda doctor who plays the lead role and is directing this movie, said the objective of the movie is to create awareness among the public about the importance of ayurveda. "The movie is about a tussle between a family members who follow and promote ayurveda and the medical mafia," said Kyathanahalli. Theater actor Yashoda plays the mother of the hero while Rajkumar Naik plays the villain.